

I am writing you from the informal hearing this evening in Atlanta. I reserve the right to file supplemental comments.

I am deeply concerned at the Commission's unseemly haste in undertaking to radically change America's media landscape to the almost certain injury to the public interest. I join many hundreds of thousands of my fellow citizens, as well as hundreds of members of Congress, and the City of Atlanta in asking the Commission to reject the proposed relaxation of media ownership restrictions.

It goes without saying that I am distressed that the proposed changes are still not available to the public. We will be affected, and we should know how before they're adopted.

As a resident of what has become a one-newspaper town under the Cox media monolith, I am concerned that trends in print and other media will only be accelerated and injuries aggravated that have already led to our loss of media diversity here. We know by bitter experience that 30 years of deregulation in print media has led to a lack of dependable newspaper coverage of issues of public concern.

Cox owns the major television station and the major news station, as well as leveraging its power on the internet and in other media. They have and are engaging in predatory practices to drive other media from what was once a vibrant community.

We are deprived of news that we need to know in Cox's furtherance of its corporate agenda. The Commission should oppose such censorship, not further it.

We in Atlanta are already an example of the negative effects of media consolidation. We hope the Commission will take the June 2 vote off its docket and open the process up to public scrutiny.

If the public interest is taken into account, as required by law and the human rights of our country's citizens, we believe the Commission will not only reject the proposed rules, but will begin taking steps to roll back media consolidation.